FOREIGN CROPS and MARKETS

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IN THIS ISSUE

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LATE CABLES

Canadian harvesting and threshing operations again delayed in most sections of the Prairie Provinces by cool showery weather during the week ended September 2. Manitoba threshing had been well advanced until wet weather brought operations almost to a standstill. In Saskatchewan about 80 percent of the wheat was reported cut but only 35 percent threshed, with work proceeding very slowly at the end of August and beginning of September. Much less wheat was cut in Alberta with threshing in most districts barely under way. Although temperatures were somewhat low across the Prairies during the week, there was no frost damage reported to the main cereal crops. In northern Saskatchewan some late oats, barley and garden crops were impaired by frost, while the continued showery weather generally caused some loss of grade through bleaching and sprouting. Apart from impeding harvest operations, the rains have benefited the late oats crop in Alberta and improved pasture conditions across the three Provinces.

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First estimate Argentine wheat acreage for 1941-42 is placed at 17,545,000 acres compared with 17,051,000 acres estimated at this time last year and final estimate of 17,507,000 acres for 1940-41; corresponding estimates for flaxseed, 6,746,000 acres compared with 6,672,000 and 6,759,000 acres.

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August declared exports of Brazil nuts to the United States from Belem, Brazil, were as follows, with 1940 comparisons in parentheses: 803 short tons shelled (850), and 1,011 short tons unshelled (4,250). Demand from the United States remained active; other countries inactive. Spot prices of medium-sized nuts at Belem, 150 milreis per hectoliter (8.12 United States cents per pound). Season closed for large washed nuts at Manaos.

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British Ministry of Food announces that restaurants, hotels, and other catering establishments will be allowed, effective September 22, one-tenth of an ounce of cheese per person for each meal served in view of improvement in supply situation. Weekly ration for home consumption will continue at 3 ounces per person.

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G R A I N S

NEW ZEALAND APPEARS LIKELY TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT in GRAINS . . .

New Zealand's program to attain self-sufficiency in production of grain appears likely to be successful this season, according to information received in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The acreages being sown to the various grain crops for the 1941-42 season show considerable expansion in the case of wheat and barley, with estimates of production correspondingly increased; but little change is noted for oats and corn, the import requirements of which are small. If growing conditions are favorable, total domestic requirements are expected to be fulfilled in 1942, after which New Zealand may have some small surpluses of wheat for export in certain seasons, at least if the present acreage-and-production policy is maintained.

NEW ZEALAND: Preliminary estimates of acreage and production of grains, 1941-42 with comparisons

Crop	Average 1934-35 to 1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42
Acreage -	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
Wheat	214	261	240	300
Oats	63	50	61	60
Barley	22	26	26	30
Corn	7	8	12	12
Production -	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Wheat	6,714	8,010	8,400	10,000
Oats	3,491	2,601	3,500	3,375
Barley	863	959	1,002	1,146
Corn	312	404	500	500

Compiled from official sources and a report from the American Consulate at Wellington.

The 1941-42 sowing program for wheat was apportioned among the wheat-growing districts of New Zealand in such a way as to bring total seedings to 300,000 acres as compared with 240,000 acres reported for 1940-41, when the acreage was decreased from that of the previous season but was still larger than the average of 1934-35 to 1938-39. Production for the current year is forecast at 10 million bushels, which would be the largest crop produced since 1932 and would amply fill domestic requirements, estimated at about 9.4 million bushels. For 1940-41 a crop of 8.4 million bushels was reported, the estimated consumption of which was distributed as follows: poultry feed 800,000 bushels, seed

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500,000, and milling 7,100,000 bushels. The total annual requirement for poultry feeding is placed at about 1,750,000 bushels, but recent imports from Australia are expected to supplement domestic wheat during the remainder of the 1941 marketing year.

Australia has usually supplied most of the wheat imported by New Zealand. During January-July, slightly more than 0.8 million bushels are estimated to have been imported; in 1940, a total of almost 2 million bushels entered the country; and in 1939 more than 3 million bushels were taken, of which some 84,000 bushels were of Canadian wheat. New Zealand's imports of other grains are relatively unimportant. Nearly a million bushels of barley were taken in 1939 and again in 1940, all of which were supplied by Australia. The small takings of corn have been mostly supplied by the Netherland East Indies, while those of oats came from Australia.

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CANADA RESTRICTS EXPORTATION OF CERTAIN GRAINS . . .

Effective August 25, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture announced that the exportation of certain grains was prohibited except under permit from the Ministry of Trade and Commerce, according to information received in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Two orders were issued. One covered wheat of grade 4 or lower grades; the other was applied to oats and barley, including any combination or mixture of these grains with each other or with any feed grain, whole or ground. This control over exports of feed grains resulted largely from the desire to conserve domestic feedstuffs, in order to expand the production of livestock and livestock products, particularly since recent unfavorable weather has materially reduced crop prospects in both eastern and western Canada.

Recent regulations applying to the sale of bread were also reported as having been issued for conservation purposes. By order of the Chairman of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board on August 6, the sale of sliced bread was prohibited and wrappings for loaves were limited to a single one-color paper, printed in one color only. Furthermore, special deliveries of bread purchased by householders were forbidden.

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BRITISH GUIANA NOW DEPENDS ON CANADA FOR WHEAT-FLOUR NEEDS . . .

British Guiana is entirely dependent upon imports to fill its domestic requirements of wheat flour, according to the United States Consulate at Georgetown. Under normal conditions the United Kingdom supplied

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an important share of its needs, but recently, largely because of more favorable customs treatment and the war situation, practically all the foreign flour imported has been of Canadian origin. While the duty on United States flour is 69.5 cents (local currency) per bag of 98 pounds, Canadian flour pays only 50 cents a bag. In addition, an import surtax of 25 percent of the customs duty must be paid on all flour imports.

Most of the flour entering British Guiana is of two grades, "Extra" and "Super," which are imported in about equal quantities, according to the trade. The first, which is more expensive, is used in homes and bakeries for bread and cake making; the second is used by the East Indians, who represent about a third of the total population, for making a large pancake type of bread known as "roti."

The total importation of flour into British Guiana in 1938 amounted to about 186,000 barrels, in 1939 to 202,500, and in 1940 to nearly 190,000 barrels. Some increase over 1940 was indicated by returns for January-June 1941, when 98,000 barrels were reported as against 84,000 in the corresponding months of last year.

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FINLAND ESTABLISHES MINIMUM PRICES FOR GRAIN . . .

By authority of the Minimum Grain Price Act, passed by the Finnish Diet on May 26, 1941, minimum prices to growers have been set up for domestic grains, according to information received in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The announced intent of this legislation is to encourage grain production by guaranteeing in advance fixed prices for crops of the current year. The schedule for 1941 fixed prices to be paid from September 1, 1941, to July 31, 1942, during which period the State Grain Store is obligated to purchase all the domestic grain offered to it. The prices, f.o.b. at shipping point, were set up as follows in marks per kilogram, with conversions at the official rate of exchange to dollars per bushel in parentheses: Spring wheat 3.50 ($1.93), winter wheat 3.40 ($1.88), rye 3.40 ($1.75), barley 3.10 ($1.37), oats 2.60 ($0.76).

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RICE PRODUCTION IN PERU INCREASED . . .

The 1941 rice crop in Peru, based on early indications, is expected to exceed 6 million bushels, the largest harvest in many years, according to information received from the American Embassy at Lima. The increased production this year is reported due to favorable weather, sufficient water supply, and intensive cultivation.

Peru, which was a net importer of rice for the past 6 years, has been striving to increase production in order that the country may again be self-sufficient in this cereal. Due to larger domestic production, Peru was a net exporter of rice for a few years prior to 1935. In 1940 Peru imported about 24,000,000 pounds of milled rice, including a small amount of rough rice. As native production has been insufficient for domestic requirements, the Government has been taking various steps to encourage rice cultivation. In 1940 an official agency was set up to buy any excess supplies from local crops on a fixed-price schedule. Existing legislation was also modified covering classification standards, prices, and controls that would enable growers to obtain a larger percentage of the market price. The Agricultural Bank of Peru on August 12, 1941, was authorized by the Government to grant loans under the security of rice deposits. Loans may be made up to 80 percent of the value of rice in the producing valleys. This value cannot exceed 30 soles per 300 pounds ($1.54 per 100 pounds) net weight for unhulled rice of the best Fortuna grade plus the cost of containers. Loans secured by other grades and types of rice will be calculated on the basis of price differences between such qualities and the best Fortuna grade. Loans may be made for a maximum period of 6 months but may be renewed upon expiration of this period or may be liquidated in accordance with the bank's organic law.

The recent decree states that, owing to the technical and financial measures issued by the Government, domestic production of rice in 1941 will be sufficient to meet local requirements, and, also, credit facilities must be granted to protect the rice industry. Meanwhile, a survey of any excess production and the convenience of exporting such excess will be made.

PERU: Rice acreage, production, imports, exports, and domestic utilization, average 1930-1934, annual 1935-1941

Year	Area	Production	Imports	Exports	Domestic utilization
		1,000	Million	Million	Million
Average - 1930-1934	Acres 125,388	bushels 5,030	pounds 5	pounds 2	pounds 143
1935	116,392	3,766	33	a/	138
1936	116,938	5,139	56	a/	199
1937	90,446	3,176	23	-	113
1938	103,695	4,352	71	-	195
1939	103,490	4,470	46	-	173
1940 b/	111,195	4,800	c/ 24	-	161
1941 b/	150,731	6,190	-	-	-

Compiled from official sources. a/ Less than 500,000 pounds. b/ Unofficial estimates. c/ Includes 1.7 million pounds of rough rice.

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VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS

URUGUAY ESTABLISHES PRICES FOR OILSEEDS . . .

The Uruguayan Government has issued a decree establishing and regulating prices for the current crops producing edible oil, according to information received from the American Legation at Montevideo. The prices quoted are for seed delivered at the nearest railroad station or port in the vicinity of the purchasing plant: 8.50 pesos per 100 kilograms ($2.54 per 100 pounds) for sound, dry, clean sunflower and turnip seed; 11 pesos ($3.28) for unshelled, dry, and clean peanuts.

Importation of oilseeds may be authorized by the Executive Power in accordance with the country's needs, to be prorated among the interested manufacturers; prior payment of a premium will be established by the Bank of the Republic. This premium will be equivalent to the difference between the import value of each kind of seed obtained outside of the country and the following prices: Sunflower or turnip seed, 8.50 pesos per 100 kilograms ($2.54 per 100 pounds); unshelled peanuts, 12.00 pesos ($3.58); shelled peanuts, 16.50 pesos ($4.93); and cottonseed, 7.50 pesos ($2.24). Should the import value of the seeds exceed these prices, the transaction will be authorized on the payment of a 1-percent premium.

The Executive Power may also authorize the importation, without premium, of oilseeds in favor of manufacturers who, prior to the publication of the present law, may not have been granted an import permit under their corresponding quota for the current year. The amount authorized in these cases will be in proportion to those import permits previously granted to other firms. The Uruguayan Government encourages the cultivation of oilseeds and so far has been successful. Peanut production increased from 3 million pounds in 1939 to 9 million in 1941, and sunflower seed from 11 to 93 million pounds during the same period.

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REDUCTION IN SWITZERLAND SOAP SUPPLIES . . .

Further cuts in soap production and rationing is inevitable in Switzerland on account of the difficulty of obtaining fat and oil supplies, according to information received by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The present war in eastern Europe has cut off imports of fats and oils that were expected from Russia, and it is becoming more difficult to obtain navicerts for overseas supplies. Officials plan to stretch reserve stocks to permit at least a partial activity in the soap industry until the end of 1942. Soap rationing in Switzerland during August and September is approximately at one-half the normal rate of consumption.

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COTTON - OTHER FIBERS

CANADIAN PURCHASES OF BRAZILAIN COTTON CONTINUE HEAVY . . .

Purchases of Brazilian cotton by Canadian mills during the year ended July 31, 1941, are estimated by trade sources to have totaled between 350,000 and 400,000 bales, according to information received in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. About 200,000 bales of this quantity had not been delivered by the end of July. New purchases of Brazilian cotton are still being made but in slightly diminishing quantities with concellation clauses in case of nondelivery. Some difficulty is being encountered in finding adequate storage facilities, even in American ports where most of the cotton is unloaded for transshipment to Canada.

A price differential of approximately 5 cents per pound has been the chief cause of the shift of Canadian buyers from American to Brazilian cotton, and the spread still prevails. American middling 15/16 inch was offered on August 19, 1941, at 17.21 cents per pound (gross weight) delivered at Montreal, while comparable Brazilian cotton was offered at 12.11 cents (net weight).

Total July consumption in Canada of raw cotton, including purchased waste and card strips, was calculated by the Cotton Institute at 46,852 bales of 500 pounds gross. (Comparable estimates of consumption by months since January 1937 may be found in Foreign Crops and Markets, May 12, 1941, and subsequent issues.)

CANADA: Cotton consumption by growths, years ended July 31, 1940, and 1941 a/
(In bales of 500 pounds gross)

Growth	1940	1941	Percentage of total	
			1940	1941
	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales
American	327,648	173,732	92.2	43.8
Brazilian	3,891	199,228	1.1	50.3
Egyptian	9,769	11,143	2.8	2.8
Indian	813	998	.2	.3
Peruvian	480	1,718	.1	.4
Others	366	0	.1	0
Purchased waste	7,843	6,792	2.2	1.7
Purchased card strips	4,558	2,902	1.3	.7
Total	355,368	396,513	100.0	100.0

Cotton Institute of Canada.
a/ Figures are for mills associated with the Cotton Institute and represent only 75 percent of estimated total consumption in Canada.

Demand for cotton goods for military requirements and civilian trade continue to exceed mill output. Most mills are operating on a two- or three-shift basis. Army enlistments and transfers of labor to other war industries have made it impossible to place the whole industry on a three-shift basis for lack of enough skilled labor. Orders on hand for cotton and woolen goods are reported to be higher than at any previous time and forward bookings beyond the end of December have been suspended on practically all lines of consumer goods. Further orders from the Canadian Government for cotton war materials for fall and winter delivery are expected in September. A tight supply situation already exists for many types of yarns and fabrics, and the new Government orders may necessitate a proportionate reduction in the quantities available for civilian needs.

Prices of cotton piecegoods for civilian purposes have increased by 15 to 25 percent above pre-war levels, resulting from both higher cost of raw materials and increased wage scales. Civilian demand for cotton manufactures, supported by higher wages and full-time employment, has exceeded the capacity of textile mills to produce, and the industry appears to have reached the limit of production expansion for the time being. Under the import-trade restrictions instituted last December imports of cotton piecegoods during the first 5 months of 1941 actually declined by about 18 percent compared with the corresponding period in 1940. Under present conditions it appears that civilian demand in coming months may not be entirely satisfied.

Imports of cotton into Canada during the 11 months ended June 30, 1941, totaled 410,428 bales (of 478 pounds net) against 425,494 bales for August-June 1939-40. The 1940-41 total includes 172,919 bales imported from the United States and 221,332 from Brazil, while the respective figures for 1939-40 were 406,815 and 2,143 bales. Arrivals of 25,824 bales of Brazilian cotton in June were more than double the figure of 9,924 bales imported from the United States. An estimate of stocks on hand at the end of July 1941 (reported semiannually) is expected late in September.

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SPAIN TO GET NEW SUPPLY
OF BRAZILIAN COTTON . . .

Notices appearing in the Barcelona press on July 31, 1941, stated that 199,600 running bales, or between 165,000and 175,000 bales of 478 pounds, of Brazilian cotton had been purchased recently by the National Textile Syndicate, a semiofficial organization in Spain, according to information received in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The cotton is said to be of very good quality with a staple ranging from 1 to 1-1/4 inches in length. According to unofficial reports, the bulk

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of this cotton is expected to arrive in Spain during September and October and together with existing stocks will guarantee mill operations to the end of 1942 at the present low rate of consumption. Prices varied for the five lots purchased but ranged roughly from 6.21 to 11.35 cents per pound, f.o.b. Brazilian ports for cotton of types 3 to 6.

Arrival in Spain of 48,644 bales (running) of Argentine cotton in July brought total imports for the first 7 months of 1941 to about 221,000 bales, virtually all from Argentina and Brazil. Distribution to the mills was calculated at 134,000 bales, leaving a stock on hand in wharf and port warehouses of about 87,000 bales. This quantity, together with the large stocks (about 45,000 bales) now on hand in the mills, is believed to be sufficient until April or May 1942, without considering the anticipated new supply from Brazil. Spanish mills have a consuming capacity of about 400,000 bales annually, but during the past 2 years only about half that amount of cotton has been available each year. Mill operations remained on a 3-day-week basis during July with the exception of a few mills permitted to operate 5 days a week.

The cotton crop in Spain was reported in the middle of July to be in somewhat better condition than at the same time last year. The 1941 acreage is estimated at 54,000 acres compared with 40,000 acres in 1940, from which an estimated 7,700 bales of cotton were harvested last year.

A new cotton spinning and weaving mill at Seville started operation of part of its machinery on July 14, 1941. The company plans a total of 10,000 spindles in the near future and double that number later. The consuming capacity of the 10,000 spindles is estimated at about 3,600 bales annually. Since most of Spain's cotton crop is grown in the Seville district, supplies for this mill are expected to be derived largely from the domestic crop.

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ARGENTINE COTTON SURPLUS
SMALL THIS YEAR . . .

The 1940-41 cotton crop just harvested in Argentina amounted to only 237,500 bales (of 478 pounds) compared with 362,500 bales in 1939-40. Heavy rains in April and May not only reduced total production but damaged the quality of the fiber so that only about 140,000 bales of good-grade cotton were picked. The domestic mill industry requires about 185,000 bales, and stocks from last year's crop were virtually exhausted by the end of July. About 118,300 bales, representing the bulk of last year's surplus, were exported to Spain (April-July 1941) under the terms of a contract concluded on February 22, 1941. Exports in 1941-42 will necessarily be small and limited to low-grade cotton.

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T O B A C C O

SHORT CROP AND HIGHER PRICES IN BOLIVIAN TOBACCO INDUSTRY . . .

The 1941 tobacco harvest in Bolivia was badly affected by adverse weather conditions and will probably be below average in quality and quantity, according to information available in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. It is estimated that Bolivia has an average crop of about 5.5 million pounds, but the tobacco-growing industry of the country is not organized and no accurate statistics concerning it are collected. Tobacco is grown as a supplementary crop on small plots of land in the Departments of Santa Cruz, Chuquisaca, and Tarija.

On the whole, the quality of Bolivian tobacco, especially that grown in the Department of Chuquisaca, is considered good, but the methods of curing are apparently unsatisfactory, and by the time the product reaches the factories it is probably no better than second or third grade. Most of the Bolivian crop, which is a dark, sun-cured, cigar-type, is manufactured into cigarettes, although there is some small production of chewing-tobacco and snuff.

Leaf prices have increased during the past 2 years from about 160-200 to 280-320 bolivianos per quintal (17-21 to 30-34 cents per pound based upon the free rate of exchange). Despite the increase in leaf costs, however, cigarettes still sell at reasonable prices - the better qualities ranging from 0.20 boliviano (4.7 cents) per package of 10 to 1.00 boliviano (23.7 cents) per package of 14. American-type cigarettes (manufactured locally) and imported American cigarettes are much higher.

The annual output of cigarettes in Bolivia made from Bolivian tobacco is approximately 504 million. In addition to this production, it is estimated that about 100,000 pounds of prepared (cut) tobacco are imported from the United States annually for the manufacture of American-type cigarettes. American-style cigarettes are very popular in Bolivia and their output increased rapidly until import restrictions were placed on foreign tobaccos in May 1940. Under terms of a decree issued about that time, the imports of cigarettes, cut tobacco, and several other tobacco products are permitted only by special permission of the Minister of Finance, and the exchange for payment must be obtained through the central or commercial banks.

Small quantities of cigarettes were also imported prior to the restrictions. More than 90 percent of these imports came from the United States, but the trade has remained unimportant owing to the high prices placed upon imported brands.

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FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

UNITED STATES CITRON IMPORTS EXPECTED AT LOW LEVEL IN 1941 . . .

Imports of citron and citron peel into the United States during the current year are expected to be at a low level because the European war has cut off shipments from the Mediterranean countries, which were previously the principal sources of supply. The effect on imports of the extension of the war is reflected in the fact that no citron (dried or in brine) was imported in the first 6 months of 1941, and arrivals since August 1940 have amounted to only 10,000 pounds, as shown in the table below. Imports of the candied or preserved product amounted to only 52,000 pounds for the period January-June 1941.

UNITED STATES: Imports of citron, dried or in brine, by months, 1937-1941

Month	1937	1938	1939	1940 a/	1941 a/
Dried or in brine:	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
January	45	186	222	217	0
February	492	388	180	617	0
March	446	297	437	670	0
April	665	259	522	894	0
May	245	208	146	118	0
June	201	202	184	594	0
July	137	55	187	91	-
August	384	228	164	0	-
September	101	119	75	5	-
October	1	126	290	2	-
November	2	69	126	3	-
December	2	99	60	0	-
	2,721	2,236	2,593	3,211	-
Total citron in brine only	2,711	2,212	2,586	3,203	-

Compiled from official sources. a/ Preliminary.

Imports of citron and citron peel for 1940, on the other hand, were at a level comparable with imports prior to the current war. Imports of citron and citron peel in brine increased over the previous year, and those of dried crude peel remained the same, while the candied and prepared product came in reduced volume. Imports in 1940 were largely from Italy and Greece, the usual sources of supply. In fact, the United States has depended almost entirely upon the various Mediterranean sources for citron requirements in the past. Besides Italy and Greece, Palestine, Albania, and France have shipped some of these products to this country.

UNITED STATES: Imports of citron and citron peel, calendar year, 1937-1940

Product and country	1937	1938	1939	1940
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
In brine -				
Greece	723	376	315	580
Italy	1,925	1,774	2,270	2,620
Palestine	63	0	0	0
Cuba	0	0	0	2
Others	0	62	1	1
Total	2,711	2,212	2,586	3,203
Crude, dried -				
Italy	2	1	a/	0
Greece	0	8	0	1
Cuba	0	0	0	4
Palestine	7	12	8	3
Others	1	4	0	0
Total	10	25	8	8
Candied and prepared -				
Italy	609	628	506	310
Others	4	0	a/	0
Total	613	628	506	310

Compiled from official sources. a/ Less than 500 pounds.

Citron is produced in several citrus-growing sections in the Western Hemisphere but little specific information can be obtained as to quantities available and areas of production. No commercial trade in these products has developed on any appreciable scale, although unquestionably production in most of these countries could be expanded. In 1940, imports from Cuba became commercially important for the first time. Supplies of citron in Cuba are small and are usually limited to little more than enough to take care of domestic requirements. The green fruit, which is on the market in June, is used principally in the preparation of candied citron peel and similar products, while the ripe fruit is on sale from July to November. Despite the fact that no substantial trade has been developed in Cuba, a large potential supply exists in that country, for soil and climatic conditions are favorable for the growing of the fruit.

Although no shipments have been made to this country, some citron is also produced in Mexico. No commercial supplies are available and no reliable production estimates exist. A census of 1927 reported about 27,921 trees producing about 2.5 million pounds of citron. According to these figures the trees are scattered throughout the country, with Chiapas, Puebla, and Jalisco the leading States.

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In the Sao Paulo district of Brazil a similar situation exists. Plantings consist largely of scattered trees, and the fruit is brought in bags to local markets by farmers from time to time, but the supply is irregular and quantities small. The tree, however, thrives in this district, which already has a well-developed orange industry and, with sufficient foreign demand for these products, production could, and probably would, be expanded.

In the United States production is also very limited and no crop estimates are available. Citron is grown in Florida and California and various citron preparations are manufactured on a small scale, especially in Florida.

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BULGARIAN STRAWBERRY CROP HEAVIEST ON RECORD . . .

Production of strawberries in Bulgaria in 1941 reached a record high of about 77,200 short tons or about 75 percent above the high of the previous year, according to information received by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Acreage has been estimated at 32,123 acres or about 75 percent above the previous year. The expansion of strawberry culture has been a recent development, for as late as 1937 the crop amounted to only 4,100 short tons. In 1941 strawberries and strawberry pulp became the leading fruit exported by Bulgaria.

BULGARIA: Production, acreage, and exports of strawberries, 1937-1941

Year	Production	Acreage	Exports	
			Fresh	Pulp
	Short tons	Acres	Short tons	Short tons
1937	8,014	4,010	161	3,395
1938	16,413	6,476	910	8,187
1939	a/ 26,500	a/ 12,355	2,092	13,902
1940	a/ 44,100	a/ 18,325	a/ 2,100	a/ 22,000
1941	a/ 77,200	a/ 32,123	-	-

Compiled from official sources except where otherwise noted.
a/ Estimated only.

The bulk of exports in 1941 were in the form of pulp, for transportation difficulties arising out of the war sharply restricted the movement of the fruit in the fresh form. The exports moved largely to Germany. Prior to 1939 important quantities of strawberry pulp were shipped to the United Kingdom, but no shipments have been made since that time.

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LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

NEW ZEALAND CATTLE AND BEEF OUTLOOK OBSCURE . . .

The 1941-42 outlook for the New Zealand cattle and beef industry is quite obscure, due to the uncertainty of the amount of beef the United Kingdom will be able to import because of steadily decreased shipping facilities, according to latest information received in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Previous to the present war, New Zealand depended on the United Kingdom to consume the greater portion of its exportable surplus of beef. In 1939, the United Kingdom took 75,299,000 pounds of a total export of 76,747,000 pounds of frozen beef. In 1940 this amount was increased.

The expected 1941 reduction of total beef exports, however, has not as yet begun to show. In fact, to the end of the first 5-month period of this year there was an actual increase of 7,168,000 pounds over the first 5 months of 1940. This was, no doubt, due to the large amount of frozen beef taken by the United Kingdom for its war needs. Such was also the case in 1940, when the amount of frozen beef exported was about double the amount exported in 1939. The expected decrease in 1941 is due largely to the apparent discontinuation for the duration of the war of exports of chilled beef, which was an important item in 1939 and before. Total beef exports are believed to have fallen off considerably during June and July of this year.

Beef production for 1940-41 is expected to be normal or above. Excellent autumn (autumn in New Zealand corresponds to spring in the United States) weather conditions provided an unusual amount of livestock feed for winter consumption. Winter conditions have been somewhat adverse, but the condition of the cattle is reported to be generally above normal. The average annual production of beef in New Zealand runs about 400 million pounds at the present time. Domestic consumption takes care of about 225 million pounds of this annually. Of the remaining 175 million there appears to be a nonexportable surplus of about 45 million pounds.

A substantial carry-over of all types of meat is expected at the end of the 1940-41 meat season, September 30, but additional storage facilities and canning plants are being provided to take care of this expected surplus.

Although no official data are available for 1941, an estimated figure indicates that no material change has taken place in the number of cattle in New Zealand. It is not known as yet just what effect the expected decrease in total beef exports will have on the cattle numbers during 1941-42.

NEW ZEALAND: Numbers of cattle, 1936-1941

Year	Cattle (including dairy cows)	Dairy cows
	1,000 head	1,000 head
1936	4,254	1,951
1937	4,389	1,935
1938	4,506	1,872
1939	4,565	1,854
1940	4,533	1,850
1941 a/	4,540	1,855

Compiled from official sources. a/ Estimate.

NEW ZEALAND: Classification of cattle, 1940

Classification	Numbers
Breeding bulls (2 years or over):	
Dairy breeds	56,182
Beef breeds	22,516
Dairy cows and heifers (2 years or over):	
In milk during the year	1,739,874
Dry during the year	110,197
Other cows and heifers (2 years or over)	707,463
Heifers between 1 and 2 years old:	
Intended for dairying	336,003
Other	189,747
Steers (2 years or over)	411,584
Steers and bulls between 1 and 2 years old	217,064
Heifer calves under 1 year old:	
Intended for dairying	331,792
Other	183,848
Bull and steer calves under 1 year old	226,762
Totals	4,533,032

Compiled from official sources

ARGENTINA INCREASES SHIPMENTS OF HIDES AND SKINS . . . .

Exports of hides and skins from Argentina recorded an increase of 4.4 percent during the January-May period of 1941 as compared with the same 5 months of 1940, according to a recent report received in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The United States continued to hold the position as the largest market for Argentine hides and skins, with England, Japan, and Egypt also purchasing sizable quantities. Exports of cattlehides for the first 5 months of 1941 were 63,200 tons as compared with 61,700 tons during the same period in 1940. Exports of sheepskins increased to 5,800 tons in the January-May period of 1941 from 5,400 tons for the same 5-month period in 1940. Although an increase of shipments was noted, a general decrease of 5.7 percent in value for the same comparative periods was recorded, due to the fall in prices of all classes of hides.

ARGENTINA: Exports of hides and skins, May 1941, with comparisons

Classification	May 1940	May 1941	Jan.-May 1940	Jan.-May 1941	Jan.-Dec. 1940	Major destination May 1941	
						United States	England
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Goatskins	264	664	1,294	2,235	3,329	650	-
Kidskins	4.4	4.4	110	26	165	4.4	-
Sheepskins	20	485	432	1,404	597	485	-
Lambskins	6.6	22	141	77	203	-	22
Pulled sheepskins	615	1,060	6,887	5,582	14,334	981	-
Unwashed sheepskins	941	1,644	4,378	5,778	10,952	1,404	-
Salted horsehides	256	531	1,219	2,330	4,526	531	-
Dry horsehides	137	440	945	1,305	2,385	388	-
Salted cattlehides	22,086	37,528	120,847	131,138	267,795	24,645	3,333
Dry cattlehides	3,333	3,668	15,176	8,272	21,940	346	2,194
Total	27,663	46,046	151,429	158,147	326,226	29,434	5,549

Compiled from Boletin Estadistia Agropecuaria, and report of American Embassy, Buenos Aires.

Production for 1940 of cattlehides and sheepskins shows a decrease from 8,300,000 pieces to 7,800,000 pieces of the former and an increase from 10,700,000 pieces to 11,100,000 pieces for the latter, as compared with the 1939 figures. Although no official 1941 figures are yet available, general sources of information seem to indicate a slightly higher production figure for this year.

ARGENTINA: Production of cattlehides and sheepskins, average 1931-1935, annual 1936-1940

Year	Cattlehides	Sheepskins
	1,000 pieces	1,000 pieces
Average 1931-1935	6,800	10,100
1936	7,800	9,600
1937	8,100	9,500
1938	8,000	10,300
1939	8,300	10,700
1940	7,800	11,100

Boletin Estadistica Agropecuaria.

A recent unofficial report states that hide-and-skin trading between the United States and Argentina was practically at a standstill from May 15 to June 19 pending the decision of the United States Government regarding the fixing of maximum prices in this country. This report indicates, however, that following this standstill the exports to the United States reached record height during the early part of June. No complete official figures for June are yet available.

ARGENTINA: Exports of hides and skins to United States, May 1941

Classification	Quantity	Value
	Number	Dollars
Dry -		
Cattlehides	21,300	38,521
Calfskins	18,460	12,400
Goatskins	302,736	130,610
Horsehides	14,083	20,862
Sheepskins	217,541	199,286
Wet -		
Cattlehides	455,145	2,602,756
Calfskins	15,480	28,762
Horsehides	8,708	35,110
Sheepskins	329,499	146,230
Total	1,382,952	3,214,537

Compiled from report of American Embassy, Buenos Aires.

It is also indicated that Japanese buyers have recently been taking some of the Argentine "frigorifico" (packing house) hides, but their main acquisitions have consisted of the "matadero" (slaughter house) types, which have been taken up in greater numbers than at any other time this year.

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COLOMBIA'S CAPITAL ANNOUNCES PLAN
TO REDUCE MILK PRODUCTS IMPORTS . . .

Bogotá, capital city of Colombia, has announced plans for the formation of a new business organization whose purpose is to manufacture and distribute milk products that have formerly been imported, according to information received by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This new undertaking would have an important economic effect on Colombia, inasmuch as the domestic requirement would not only be filled, but it is hoped that products for export would also be produced.

Records show that dairy-cattle herds located around Bogotá produce about 96,000 liters (25,360 gallons) per day, of which 50,000 liters (13,208 gallons) are required for local consumption. The remaining 46,000 liters (12,152 gallons) have heretofore been converted to butter and cheese and sold almost exclusively in Bogotá. Hence, it has been necessary to import milk derivatives such as lactose, condensed milk, whole milk or liquid cream, milk preparations, and allied foods. These imports amount to about 900,000 pesos ($512,842) annually.

The new organization, which is known as "La Industria Colombiana de Leches," will be the largest of its kind in Colombia, having a capital of 440,000 pesos ($250,800) composed of 44,000 shares. It is backed by the Institute of Industrial Development, which holds 22,400 shares. The city administration will have full control over the production of the different stocks, sanitary conditions, prices, expenses, and other factors affecting the consumer. The city has also agreed to exempt the association from industrial and commercial taxes for a period of 5 years, and to aid in obtaining refrigerated transportation facilities for the movement of the products.

It is the hope of the association to improve local stock by modern methods of sanitation and hygiene and also by importing some improved breeding stock. Colombian officials are now in the United States making purchases of dairy cattle for shipment to their country. Exports of dairy cattle from the United States to Colombia in 1940 and to date in 1941 have amounted to over 400 head. It is expected that a healthier breed will yield a higher production and that eventually maximum production can be combined with ideal sanitary conditions.

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